GEORGIA STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD PRESS RELEASE

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STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD APPROVES AMENDED FY 2010 AND FY 2011 BUDGETS

ATLANTA – The State Transportation Board approved the amended Fiscal Year 2010 and the Fiscal Year 2011 Georgia Department of Transportation budgets during its regular board meeting this week. Georgia DOT must present the budgets to the State Office of Planning and Budget by September 30.

The FY 2011 budget totals \$2.04 billion, a decrease of \$153 million from the Amended FY 2010 budget of \$2.2 billion. The reduced FY 2011 budget reflects declining federal funds and state motor fuel dollars. (State government is currently in FY 2010. FY 2011 will begin next July 1.)

"Georgia DOT continues to limit spending wherever possible," said Board Chairman Bill Kuhlke, Jr., noting the Department is cutting costs in FY 2010 by delaying maintenance projects, suspending mowing contracts, implementing employee furloughs, and not filling vacant positions. "However, many of these cuts are unsustainable in the long term. We don't have adequate funding to maintain the current system and we certainly don't have adequate funding to prepare for the future needs of the state."

The Department will fund much of its FY 2011 operations from state motor fuel taxes collected during FY 2010. Current trends indicate those FY 2010 collections will be at least \$81 million less than FY 2009 totals, continuing a marked decline in state resources available to meet Georgia's growing transportation infrastructure needs.

Georgia DOT is governed by the State Transportation Board. Board members, representing each of the state's 13 congressional districts, exercise general control and supervision of the Department. Each member serves a five-year term and the terms are staggered. Board members are elected by the state representatives and senators whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).